

EXHIBIT 7
DATE 1.9.07
HB 71

January 9, 2007

My name is Brian Cherry and I live in the hills west of Victor. I have been a resident of Montana for most of my life.

I'd like to begin by thanking Representative McLean^{ARGEN} for introducing this bill and Mr. Hagener's office and the MTA for their parts in moving this thing forward. I read as an acknowledgement on their parts^{OF} the need for change.

I couldn't agree more. I believe trapping to be cruel and inhumane so, while I'm in no way to be construed as a fan of the activity, I do recognize that, given the current state of affairs, trappers become de facto agents of the state when we license them to go and kill thousands of animals every year.

It seems beyond obvious to me that the state has not only the right, but also the obligation to educate those we authorize to engage in lethal endeavors, with regards to minimal standards of acceptable behavior. ^{AND} ~~MAINTAIN~~

My problem with the bill, as written, is that it allows previously licensed trappers to bypass the required education requirement. Personal experience has shown me that there are some old trappers out there who could clearly benefit from some new learning, so I would like to see that grandfathering clause eliminated.

I do urge you to pass this legislation and begin a much needed process of change. Thanks for you time.

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